

Black Church Involved in Economic Impact & Engagement



“...If the Black church isn’t involved in economic impact and economic engagement it will cease to exist in the near future.” — Mr. Tawan Davis

There have been many critics of the Black church’s economic influence within African-American communities. None more vocal than **Dr. Umar Johnson**. I’m sure you are aware of Johnson’s public commentary towards the economic responsibilities which he feels the church should be taking.

Frankly, I agree with Dr. Umar Johnson.

However, I’ve listened to rebuttals from the church’s side of view as well. **Pastor Corey Minor** rebutted that the core role of the church is to bring focus to the teachings of Jesus. Not to get side-tracked with entrepreneur aspirations. I find Pastor Corey Minor’s rebuttal to be disingenuous because there exist a multitude of “Sideline Business” that are owned and operated by the Christian church. Sideline businesses owned and operated by churches can be found in many industries by doing a simple query on the Internet:

Housing, Printing & Publishing, Finance, Museums, Food banks, pantries and meal programs, Home storage centers, Banquette Halls, Parochial Education, Nursing Homes, Transportation services and agricultural services, Radio, Video Production and Broadcasting, Music and Entertainment

The one Christian Church initiative that is exactly what Dr. Umar Johnson is suggesting the Black Church model after is the **Mondragon Corporation** in northern Spain. There is no reason why the Black Church should not aspire to engage in Worker Co-operatives. Understand the history of the Mondragon, as it’s inception emerged from the Christian church. The church doesn’t need to be hands on, as it only needs to delegate these initiatives. There are plenty of young educated men within the church fellowship who can be delegated the task of organizing community workers. The truth is the old school church leaders don’t want to loose control to what they don’t understand. And young male parishioners are finding no place for themselves as women are gaining political dominance within the church. Young Black men have become disinterested in church fellowship as their roll in the African-American community feels obsolete.

Worker Cooperatives are a 'forgotten part' of African-American history. During the Great Depression it was the **Christian Socialist** who arrived like the calvary to organize poor Blacks, and poor Whites to engage in free enterprise by collectively building agricultural, worker cooperatives. My family originated in the south, partaking in the **Hillhouse, Mississippi Delta Cooperative** during 1936. Unfortunately, many of these mixed race groups were hazed and discouraged by racist segregationist. My family abandoned the cooperative to join many Blacks in the Great Migration to northern states. A Worker Cooperatives is a Socialist economic model. Conservative White men have been a great deterrent to African-Americans collaborating under socialism to compete in the free marketplace. As White Conservatives kicked Christian Socialist out of the United States for teaching African-Americans self sufficient economic strategies.

Racial tensions in the US have subsided enough that I believe African-Americans should revisit worker cooperative business models. The most recent example of what African-American communities should be doing throughout the United States, as a form of free enterprise is a retail store. A grocery store owned and operated by the meager workers of the business. **Detroit People's Food Co-op**; a Black-led initiative. The Black church should be first in line to encourage, educate and endorse these types of free enterprise endeavors.

It is my hope that Mr. **Tawan Davis** will use his platform to keep this concept at top of mind for followers to see as an options for what is possible and innovative. The Black church should revisit this past time Christian initiative for sustaining it's future. The dialog needs to be on the table.

REFERENCE THE FOLLOWING VIDEO:

Link	Description	Scan Code
	JAMAL BRYANT PODCAST - Featuring Tawan Davis <i>See the full video podcast interview</i>	
	PROBLEM WITH THE BLACK CHURCH? Pastor Corey Minor: <i>The Word Christian Center</i>	
	Detroit People's Food Co-op <i>launched May 18, 2024</i>	
	History of the Mondragon Corporation <i>Narrated by Economist, Prof, Richard Wolf</i>	
	Hillhouse, Mississippi Delta Cooperative <i>Photo documentary by famed Photographer Dorothea Lang in 1937</i>	